

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please Amend the paragraph on page 4, beginning at line 15, as follows:

In one alternative to the first embodiment, the elongate composite structure is designed for mechanical adjustment, such as the mechanical solutions disclosed in International Application No. WO 01/45486. In this alternative, the property improving means comprises a core of a soft viscoelastic material, such as silicone gel, typically having a hardness less than 20 ~~Shure~~Shore, cellulose gel or collagen gel. Where silicone gel is chosen, it may be "Med 3-6300" manufactured by Nusil. Hard silicone constitutes the base material, typically having a hardness of at least 60 ~~Shure~~Shore, and covers the soft core of viscoelastic material. The soft core makes the implanted elongate composite structure less injurious to the stomach or esophagus, and reduces the injury of such organs. Furthermore, the soft core of viscoelastic material may be formed to enclose and protect mechanical adjustment components and other components of the composite structure, whereby fibrosis is prevented from growing into such components.

Please Amend the paragraph on page 8, beginning at line 18, immediately after the heading "Detailed Description of the Drawings", as follows:

Figure 1 illustrates a mechanical constriction device 2 according to the invention comprising an elongate composite structure 4 adapted to extend around and constrict the stomach or esophagus of a patient to form a restricted stoma opening therein. Referring to Figure 2, the elongate composite structure 4 comprises a strong band 6 of nylon or the like, a tubular layer 8 of hard silicone, in which the band 6 slides, a soft layer 10 of a viscoelastic

material, here a silicone gel having a hardness not more than 20 Shore, encircling the hard silicone layer 8, and a tubular layer 12 of a self-supporting base material of hard silicone having a hardness of at least 60 ~~Shure~~Shore, surrounding the soft silicon layer 10. A coating 14 of Teflon™, Parylene™ or a biocompatible metal, such as gold, silver or titanium, is coated on the outer hard silicone layer 12 to make the composite structure resistant to aggressive body fluids and to give the composite structure good anti-friction properties. A coating of Teflon™, Parylene™ or metal may also be coated on the internal surface of the inner tubular hard silicone layer 8 to reduce the friction between the nylon band 6 and the layer 8. The constriction device 2 has an adjustment means 16 that can displace the end portions of the nylon band 6 relative to each other to either enlarge or constrict the stoma opening.